



VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK
Village Commission Agenda Report

#Item 13.c

REGULAR MEETING

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Biscayne Park Village Commission

FROM: Commissioner Jenny Johnson-Sardella

DATE: January 10, 2017

TITLE: Discussion Item-Hiring of Reserve Police Officers

Recommendation

I would like to discuss the need to immediately hire additional reserve officers over the next three (3) month period (for a total of 15 reserve officers as contemplated by our current budget) to improve the visibility of our police and patrolling efforts.

Although our Village Manager has expressed concerns with our ability to provide proper training to new officers without a current established Field Training Manual or Standard Operating Procedures Manual ("SOP"), it is worth a discussion with our Village Attorney and Interim Police Chief regarding the possibility of using another municipality's SOP in the interim. Our newly hired Police Chief will be able to amend the SOP when and if necessary. In addition, I am confident that our Interim Police Chief has the knowledge and foresight to determine the resources required to appropriately obtain new hires in a timely manner.

Background

According to our Village Manager's statements during our recent "Community Forum: Departments of Police and Code Compliance" ("Community Forum"), our Police Department ("Department") has nine (9) full-time officers. However, as a result of the recent resignation of our Police Chief and appointment of our new Interim Police Chief we are down to seven (7) patrolling officers.

Although, I compliment the Village Manager's choice for Interim Police Chief, the transition has obviated the need to increase the manpower of our Department in order to ensure community safety. During the recent Community Forum our residents unquestionably expressed their concerns regarding the lack of police presence and a desire to see

our Department use reserve officers more effectively.¹ Many residents stated that while car break-ins and burglaries have increased along with speeding and cut-through traffic throughout the Village, there has been an observed decrease in police visibility.

While our community is exposed to increased safety concerns, it critical that we act affirmatively to bolster the efficiency and effectiveness of our Department.

Resource Impact

To be determined.

Attachment

None. Discussion item.

Prepared by: Commissioner Jenny Johnson-Sardella

¹ Effective use of reserve officer shifts can help decrease spending caused by payment of police overtime.